

May Day:

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VIETNAM CARTER

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SOUTH VIET NAM

**Southwest of HUE: 34 Choppers
Downed in One Day.**

**KHE SANH Sector: Nearly 1,000
G.I.'s Killed or Wounded in One
Week.**

**SAIGON Area: One Puppet Bat-
talion and 2 Companies Wiped
Out. 100 G.I.'s Killed or Wounded.**

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NORTH VIET NAM

**9 U.S. Planes Downed in 2 Consecutive
Days Including the Third F.111-A.**

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U.S. OBDRUTELY STEPS UP WAR OF DESTRUCTION IN NORTH VIET NAM AND COMMITS CRIMES IN THE SOUTH

WHILE deliberately putting forward preposterous conditions to delay preliminary contacts with the D.R.V.N., for 6 days running from April 15 to 20, the U.S. government launched against the D.R.V.N. air raids three times fiercer than previously.

On April 15, U.S. planes dropped a dozen bombs on a village in Thach Ha district, Ha Tinh province, causing many casualties among the inhabitants.

On April 16, 40 U.S. bombs were released on two localities in Quang Binh and Nghe An provinces. The same day U.S. war ships shelled a coastal village in Vinh Linh area, inflicting on the people great losses in lives and property.

The following days, U.S. air raids were stepped up. On April 18, a populated area 15km south of Thanh Hoa town was savagely attacked but the U.S. claimed no raids had been flown along the 19th parallel. On April

19, about 600 bombs were dropped on 40 localities in nearly all the districts of Ha Tinh province, savagely killing many local people.

Furthermore, on these days, U.S. planes were very active in the provinces of Ha Bac, Nam Ha, Vinh Phuc, Hoa Binh, Bac Thai, Ha Tay, Quang Ninh, Thanh Hoa, Thai Binh, Yen Bai, Hanoi and Hai Phong.

USIS admitted that on April 18, U.S. planes had made 145 sorties over North Viet Nam. AFP and Reuter confirmed that this was the highest number of air sorties recorded in one day since the beginning of 1968.

Paralleled with the stepping up of the war of destruction against North Viet Nam, U.S. troops have committed many crimes in the South.

On April 17, a war ship of the 7th Fleet attacked U Minh jungle, Ca Mau province, with shells and rockets, causing 80 big fires, some

of them gutting an area 20km each side, and lasting for many days. On April 18, U.S. planes dropped napalm and petrol on this jungle, to stir up the flames and fired shells and rockets on the hamlets within and without that jungle, destroying many dwelling houses and causing losses in lives and property to the population.

There has been no clearer evidence of the U.S. government's obduracy and belligerence.

On the Choice of a Site for D.R.V.N.-U.S. Preliminary Contacts

U.S. DIPLOMACY SLIGHTS RESPECT FOR COMMITMENTS

FOUR weeks have elapsed since the D.R.V.N. Government declared its readiness for preliminary contacts with the U.S. Government and suggested two meeting places. These four weeks were, alas, wasted by the Americans on an escalation game on the conditions for the choice of such a site.

They who have insisted so much on "prompt talks" and "talks without conditions," they who have declared that "if they only let me know when and where [the talks will take place]," they who have said that "there needs only a room and a table" and the U.S. president will have his "closest and most trusted associates at that time and at that place in a matter of hours," now come out with two, then four terms for the choice of the site.

Here are, first of all, these two prerequisites: the country where the contacts will take place must be a neutral country, and there must be an American embassy there. And "the four things which you have to have": good communication facilities; a place without psychological advantage for either side; access for news coverage; and a place where the Saigon puppets and other satellites of the U.S. have their representation. It should be noted that in setting the latter condition—which seems to boil down rather to a point of procedure for the official talks between the D.R.V.N. and the United States—the U.S. Government has committed right now a crude provocation against the Vietnamese people.

ESCALATION IN SUG- GESTIONS FOR A SITE

ALL these conditions have thus put the Americans to the old refrain: "The U.S. is ready to go anywhere at any time" to achieve peace. This "Bible of Negotiations," as was called by *UPI* on April 12, must as of now disappear from the American propaganda arsenal.

In its place, there has appeared another theme of U.S. propaganda: the Americans' generosity in the offer of possible sites for the preliminary contacts. At first, they suggested five places, now they have added ten. A real escalation! Look, they said, the United States and the D.R.V.N. may be parted in the choice of the site, so we have invited three countries to make proposals and these ten new names include suggestions which are theirs.

A threebare play! It tends to put on the same footing the views of the victim of aggression that the D.R.V.N. is and those of the aggressor that the American imperialists are. It also aimed at enlisting the sympathy of certain countries and comforting others. What is ludicrous in it is that the great majority of the names suggested do not meet even the four criteria of the United States.

This galore of names proposed by the U.S. has but called back to mind another American stunt: on one fine day of 1967 the services of Mr. Johnson listed as many as "25 peace efforts" of the U.S. A few days later 28, then 41 "efforts." However,

(Continued page 2)

Latest News

P.L.A.F. COMMAND'S 5th SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE

IN 75 days the people's and revolutionary forces upset the enemy's battle array, inflicted heavy losses on him and driven him onto the path to inescapable defeat:

- 200,000 KILLED, WOUNDED OR CAPTURED (INCLUDING 60,000 U.S. AND FOREIGN MERCENARIES).
- 3 ARMOURD REGIMENTS, A GROUP OF PARA BATTALIONS, 73 BATTALIONS, 270 COMPANIES, 10 ARMOURD SQUADRONS WIPED OUT OR DEPLETED.
- 2,500 AIRCRAFT, 2,380 TANKS AND ARMOURD VEHICLES, 330 SHIPS AND MILITARY CRAFT, 346 GUNS DESTROYED OR PUT OUT OF ACTION.
- SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND PUPPET TROOPS HAVE DEFEATED AND LARGE AREAS LIBERATED.

DESPITE rains of U.S. bombs and machine gun bullets on our country in the South, as well as in the North, our working class and people have won the international Labour Day in an absolute confidence in the triumph of our just cause.

On May Day this year, in the world as well as in Viet Nam, more than ever, it is clear that the forces of socialism and independence are prevailing over those of imperialism and the forces of peace over those of war.

In the world, during 52 years since the magnificent action of Chicago workers for the 8-hour working day, the revolutionary struggle of the world working class has been marked by more and more extensive actions and bigger and bigger successes.

The last decades have seen the birth and growth of the socialist camp which is asserting itself as "the decisive factor in the development of human society."

VIET NAM WORKING CLASS IN THE VAN OF ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE

Oppressed peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America have risen up in an irresistible drive and smashed by big chunks the abhorred colonial system. The definitive liquidation of colonialism — old and new — is the order of the day.

In the capitalist countries, the movement for peace, democracy and social progress is gaining momentum. It is imperative to point out the growing role of the U.S. working class and people in the struggle against American monopoly against the regime of exploitation and racial segregation represented by L.B. Johnson and his administration, and against Washington's war policy so detrimental to the interests and honour of the U.S.

The present international juncture is dominated by the fact that a world storm of the forces of progress and peace has made its appearance and is fighting resolutely against the reactionary and bellicose forces, and its action hinges on the support given to the struggle waged by our people against U.S. imperialism and for national salvation.

THOUGH relatively young and small in number, the Vietnamese working class which has proved during four

decades to be the leading force in the whole country has been making a distinguished contribution to the nation's drive for independence and freedom and to the fight of the world working class and people for peace, democracy and socialism.

Since 1930, led by its Leninist Party — formerly the Indo-Chinese Communist Party, now the Viet Nam Workers' Party — the Vietnamese working class has constantly been in the forefront of the struggle. Since 1929, it has taken over the banner of national liberation from bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties. Having as a close ally the peasantry, it has been the driving force in the steering wheel of your lorry "when enemy planes are roaring overhead and bombs are exploding around you," "to beat a hammer in one hand and a gun in another" is a struggle you must wage every day, every minute.

To join one's machine gun nest set up on the roof of a workshop or at the prow of a ship when enemy planes are coming, to resume work when they have flown away or crashed down, to adopt a mode of life suitable to wartime, to improve the material and cultural life in war conditions, to "draw bomb explosion with one's singing" testifies to a grim resolve to create for oneself an intensely beautiful life, and also an unshakable confidence in the future, a future which is now being shaped by the Viet Nam working class for itself and for its entire people.

To rejoin one's machine gun nest set up on the roof of a workshop or at the prow of a ship when enemy planes are coming, to resume work when they have flown away or crashed down, to adopt a mode of life suitable to wartime, to improve the material and cultural life in war conditions, to "draw bomb explosion with one's singing" testifies to a grim resolve to create for oneself an intensely beautiful life, and also an unshakable confidence in the future, a future which is now being shaped by the Viet Nam working class for itself and for its entire people.

The August 1945 revolution to success and founded the first people's democracy in South-East Asia. With the working class at their head our people put up against the French colonists a protracted resistance war which ended by the Dien Bien Phu victory considered by oppressed peoples all over the world to be theirs.

With the general attacks on urban centres and U.S. and puppet bases, the Viet Nam urban and rural populations which have succeeded one another without let-up since the end of January this year our people's struggle against U.S. imperialism and for national salvation has taken a new turn, very hard and very complex but most promising! The defeat of U.S. imperialism and the victory of our people are foregone conclusions.

In North Viet Nam, our working class and people have had in the main the objectives set, by the U.S. rulers who have been waging for four years now a naval and air war of destruction against the D.R.V.N. in order to stop our assistance to our compatriots in the South, to halt our socialist construction in the North and to bomb our people and government into submission

to their dictat. It never occurred to the men in the White House and Pentagon that, despite the bombs showered on the D.R.V.N., the economic and military potentials of the latter would continue to increase and the material and technical basis of socialism continue to be established successfully.

To these victories of great significance our working class makes a contribution one may expect from as the vanguard revolutionary force. To try by all means to maintain and step up production, to continue to work requires gigantic efforts, a lot of wit and a great sense of responsibility. "To rejoin to your workshop, your ship, the steering wheel of your lorry," "when enemy planes are roaring overhead and bombs are exploding around you," "to beat a hammer in one hand and a gun in another" is a struggle you must wage every day, every minute.

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OK working class and people have a first confidence in victory. This stems from the traditions of our people who, in their multi-millenary history, have routed the most savage aggressors from the Genghis Khan hordes in the 13th century to the army of the Mikado in the 20th century. This derives from our national motto: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." This springs from the righteousness of our cause backed by the world's working class and peoples, including the American people, the recipients of the Chicago tradition with its historical First of May 1886.

On May Day this year when our victory over U.S. imperialism is in sight, our working class and people are resolved to live up to the pledge taken by the July 12, 1966: "For the defence of the independence of the Fatherland and for the fulfilment of our obligation to the peoples struggling against U.S. imperialism, our people and army, united as one man, will resolutely fight till complete victory whatever the sacrifices and hardships may be."

An Arsenal Girl-Mechanic

THAT just seventeen when she came to work at the arsenal.

For the first time in her life she stood by long pieces of ordnance. She had seen some before, wrapped in tarpaulin, from afar. She had looked at them with a keen interest, carefully, and dreamt of becoming a mechanic.

A Kyoto University lecturer, married with many children, Doctor of Agronomy, Luong Dinh Cua could have spent quiet days in the Country of the Quiet Morn until the end of turmoil. But he could not bear the idea of remaining, outside the struggle waged by his country to wrest back independence and freedom. So he left Japan in 1952 for the resistance bases in Viet Bac (mountain regions of North Viet Nam). But the hazards of the traveled land in Saigon and only at the end of 1954 was he able to join the liberated areas.

The most precious thing he made a point of taking with him when stealing away from Saigon was a small brochure bag containing many varieties and hybrids of rice he had spent years to develop, among them a nice variety of rapid growth (95 days instead of a minimum of 120 days): the "Nong Nghiep 1" which Luong Dinh Cua succeeded in acclimatizing in Bac Bo (North Viet Nam) after his regroupment to the North. This rice variety has greatly contributed to the carrying out of an important directive of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and D.R.V.N. government, which was to develop agricultural production with various methods including the increase and rotation of crops. Other creations by Luong Dinh Cua (rice varieties 813, 828, 127, "Chien Trang"... immune to a rice disease called, "yellow degeneracy," new varieties of water lilies, summer

Gun-repairing had been until then a man's job. And so the girl's wishes, under the leadership of the arsenal, however, decided to help her to enter her apprenticeship. A course was specially prepared for her.

The first lesson dealt with the oil-broke. Two knew it was an important part of a cannon and learned theory and practice with diligence. Once, it occurred that oil leaked out of the tank-bore she had just fitted up. Literally, she was set to finding out the cause for it, resolutely, forgetting even to rest.

The girl made quick headway, she was entrusted with the repairing of a breech-bore, a difficult job which required precision. In order to see how it was done, she took it to pieces, then fitted it up again, several times running. She studied some of the component parts each day. She put them all on a tray, shut her eyes and took them one after another, trying to recognize each. In want to no time she succeeded in assembling them together and

fitting up the box. After the second experiment she got the whole set-up on her finger tips.

So much so that one year of apprenticeship made her a good mechanic.

One day Tuoi was told off to put in order a gun about a marsh. What a surprise for the sailors to see her getting into the job! Her hands were steady, quickly found out what was wrong with the weapon. After an hour it was able to work again.

Since then, as a mechanic by trade she has been to many battalions. After repairing a price of ordnance she never forgot to say to the gunners, "Write to me whenever you're brought down an enemy aircraft."

Now Tuoi has a thick file of letters. They came from all parts of the country, the appreciation of her contribution to the successes of our anti-aircraft defence.

In the People's Service

occurrences, dwarf sorghum, etc. — serve the same purpose, i.e. to develop agricultural production in order definitively to stamp out famine which was plaguing for thousands of years the overpopulated provinces of the Bac Bo delta.

During the First Five-Year Plan (1961-1965) where stress was laid on the application of advanced farming technique, Luong Dinh Cua was seen scouring the countryside to put his knowledge at the disposal of the local authorities. By studying the time-honoured experience of the peasants he improved scientific data. He then used the simplest words to popularize science among the masses. Of course, Luong Dinh Cua is not the only scientist who likes into shape "the methods of cultivation which make the 5 tons of paddy yield per hectare per year on large areas" and these methods could not be worked out without the help of millions and millions of peasants. But it is safe to say that Luong Dinh Cua has put his heart and soul in it. How much effort and patience it took to determine the process of production and technical basis for co-operatives, the organization of work at co-operative, village, district and province level! One should have other things in one's heart

beside love of science to find, say, the best method to transplant rice seedlings. Luong Dinh Cua said: "I could hardly bear the sight of peasants bent under the weight of heavy bundles of rice plants or twisting their bodies each time they bury the roots of the plants into the mud. I buckled down to observing their movements and devised new ones."

I suggested that rice plants should be tied to the roots of the plants into the mud. I buckled down to observing their movements and devised new ones. I suggested that rice plants should be tied to the roots of the plants into the mud. I buckled down to observing their movements and devised new ones. I suggested that rice plants should be tied to the roots of the plants into the mud. I buckled down to observing their movements and devised new ones.

Luong Dinh Cua is unassuming. He never speaks of himself and of his discoveries. He thinks that they are the work of a great many people. He adds that these discoveries would not have been possible had agricultural co-operatives not been brought to a high organizational level (localities of the R.M.E. All that is true, but one should not forget that he was one who hit upon the ideas and thanks to these innovations the work of millions of farmers is lightened and more productive; and the objective set for agriculture to reap "5 tons of paddy per hectare per year on large areas" has been achieved. This is distinguished contribution to the people's struggle for national independence, freedom and socialism.

That is why this scientist who is frequently seen working in ricefields rather than in his laboratories, has been made a "Hero of Socialist Labour" and is well-known and loved by thousands of farmers, in the North and also in his native South Viet Nam where his "Nong Nghiep 1" variety is called "Brother Cua's rice."

MAY 1st, 1967. Braving the ban on demonstration ordered by the puppet administration and breaking through an over 10,000-strong riot police cordon, tens of thousands of workers and other labourers in Saigon, Cho Lon and Gia Dinh took to the streets. The demonstrators carried banners and placards with English slogans highlighting the insistent demands:

— Cut down the price of rice and foodstuffs!

— Oppose the replacement of Vietnamese workers by foreign workers!

— Food and clothing in stead of bombs and bullets!

— End indiscriminate bombing!

— Down with the police state!

— Foreigners (i.e. U.S.-Ed.) must respect Vietnamese sovereignty!

An AP correspondent in Saigon admitted that the demonstration had "a distinctive anti-American and anti-government tone." Not only in Saigon, but also in all other towns and cities of South Viet Nam did the workers and labouring people display the fighting spirit inherent in their class. In Ca Mau, a provincial capital in the southernmost tip of South Viet Nam, 3,000 people took part in the walk-out, market strike and demonstration against mass layoffs of the people and denounce the use of napalm and toxic chemicals against workers, the people and crops.

The above-mentioned actions marked a new step forward in the movement of the working class and labouring people in the urban area of South Viet Nam. They voiced, in the context of the anti-imperialist struggle, not only their demands for better livelihood but also their eager aspiration for peace, independence and sovereignty of South Viet Nam urban population. To some extent they were also indicative of the position of the vast number of Vietnamese people in their resistance to the aggression and for national salvation, the heavy setbacks of the U.S. and the irrevocable code of the Saigon puppet administration touched off by the 1966 Vietnam-1967 Spring campaign of the patriotic forces.

In the past year since May 1st, 1967 the large-scale struggle of the workers and labouring people in South Viet Nam urban areas has been gaining in strength and scope. Most remarkable were the activities of those in the key services in Saigon: Cho Lon and Da Nang and even in the military and supply bases of the U.S. The satisfaction by the puppet authorities and the American capitalist companies of the demands of 117 trade unions of the power and supply corporation, the port, the communication and transport service and the oil supply service in Saigon May 1967, the strike of 200 workers of Esao, an important oil distribution centre of the U.S. in Qui Nhon, which was supported by their colleagues the Tan Son Nhut and Nha Be POL (due 1967) in Saigon (August 1967), the strikes of dockers at the ports of Rach Da and Cape St. Jacques (June 1967), of workers at the U.S. company "Equiment" in Thu Duc (September 1967), of 1,500 workers at the airfields of the U.S. Air Force in Binh Dinh (Aug. 1967) and of workers and employees of the Pan American Airways (December 1967)... were vivid illustrations.

In particular, the protracted walk-out of 45,000 Vietnamese workers in the vast establishments of the R.M.E. (R.M.E. company has had a major effect since many of these establishments were under contract to build military installations for the U.S. According to AP, within only 4 months, in the admission of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, 53 disputes and strikes broke out in the company for better working conditions

and pay rises and against ill treatment and beating by U.S. troops and agents, the puppet administration and their replacement by foreign workers.

SINCE the start of the 1967 Winter-1968 Spring campaign, inspired by the victories of the patriotic armed forces and the people, the workers' struggle has reached a higher stage. The middle-class workers, rubber workers at the power and water supply service, the public transport and oil distribution services in Saigon for the release of arrested trade unionists, higher pay, better working conditions and to near standstill many factories and other branches of activity in the city. The puppet and the U.S., on the one hand, did their utmost to put down the strike, but on the other, had to give way, although the workers and rubber plantations also waged a persistent struggle against the strike for wage lifts and guarantee to their livelihood. Rubber planters in the contested areas also took part in the social and political actions against the wanton terrorist raids, four villages, the area of rubber plantation, Thu Dau Mot province, have been awarded N.F.U. decorations for their achievements.

Meantime, in the towns and cities, especially in Saigon and Cho Lon, the workers and labouring people have organized and promoted their paramilitary activities in co-ordination with the economic and political struggle. They formed "self-defence teams" to resist raids and arrests and punish the enemy's cruel acts. By the end of 20, 1967 confirmed many armed propaganda cells in the urban area of South Viet Nam, in the centre of Saigon. In addition, "shock brigades" have been set up and have been trained in the struggle with the Liberation Armed Forces' attacks on the nerve centres of the U.S. and its puppet administration. In part, in one way or another, in the area of the airfields of Tan Son Nhut, Da Nang, Dien Hiep and Can Tho, on the Long Binh military supply base, etc..

ALL these activities of the workers and labouring people were the forerunner of the violent revolutionary storm, the general offensive and widespread uprisings early this Spring which has been sweeping South Viet Nam.

They were in the first lines during the combat and uprising in the streets. Their activities paved the way for the general offensive and widespread uprisings. Conceding this point, AP on February 6, 1968 reported that workers at many of the enterprises and the Saigon area. Cho Lon had made all-sided preparations for the uprising and they themselves had made many armed units and fought in the Saigon streets. The workers' living quarters such as the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th districts of Saigon were the scenes of the most violent uprisings. It was in those places that the mass organizations of the people's revolutionary power were set up. In due city, thousands of workers and labouring people joined the revolutionary armed forces or helped the latter in the drawn-out fight in the old imperial met. A representative of the working people is in the People's Revolutionary Committee of Thu Tien — Hue.

Together with other sections of the urban population of South Viet Nam, the workers and labouring people have entered a new period of struggle, that of relentless offensive and widespread uprisings, in order to wrest back power to the people. Now as in the past, they are upholding the vanguard banner of the working class and there is no doubt that, shoulder to shoulder with the South Vietnamese people, they will continue their triumphant march towards complete victory.

A socialist labour team at the "March 8" Textile Mill



VIET NAM AND THE WORLD AT LARGE

I arrived at Hai Phong port on a warm Spring morning. It was about five, Viet Nam, the harbour was already bustling with activity. Dozens of tractors pulling trailers loaded with goods scurried in all directions, driven by young women wearing blue caps with squared "Star" badges showing their membership of the city's self-defence corps. At the pier, the freighter *Honggi* (12 China) and *Isabel Eris* (Britain) were unloading their cargoes.

THE HEARTS OF VIETNAMESE DOCKERS

In the drizzle, a woman worker, Nguyen Thi Du, told me, "In these days, the cargo discharged at our port consists chiefly of goods sent from foreign countries as aid to our people." Looking in the direction she showed me, I could still count a dozen or more ships, big and small, crowded together in the corner of the harbour waiting to be unloaded.

Nguyen Thi Du, 25, was born and raised in this picturesque port. She herself has handled innumerable bags of goods presented by friends from various countries, as tokens of their deep friendship for the Vietnamese people who are resisting U.S. aggression. She has had many moving meetings between foreign sailors and Hai Phong dockers. In the last half year and half years since the U.S. made its first air raids over North Viet Nam (April 1965), ships kept crossing oceans and calling at her beloved port by the hundreds of thousands. She understands very well that such purchases of rice, wheat, flour and many other things from the Vietnamese people are using in their fight against the cruel U.S. aggressors is shipped in from abroad. Her native city has been savagely ravaged by U.S. bombs and shells. The port is constantly under the threat of U.S. air raids or mine blockade. The U.S. imperialists have been, however, unable to prevent ship arrivals in Viet Nam.

APPEAL For International Intellectuals' Meeting on Viet Nam

On March 23, 1968 at a meeting held at the Porte des Versailles to support the Vietnamese people's legitimate struggle against the U.S. aggressors, the French intelligentsia launched an appeal to intellectuals all over the world for an intellectuals' international meeting on Viet Nam.

The appeal reads as follows:

"In expressing together the repulsion of their conscience at the inextinguishable contribution to the general movement to support Viet Nam. This urge of individual conscience in the struggle against the U.S., of the action of these intellectuals who sustain the war.

"The re-establishment of peace depends more than ever on the recognition of the right of the Vietnamese people to self-determination. This can only be achieved when the U.S. aggression is stopped. The U.S. aggression is the cause of the resistance, the National Front for Liberation, and without withdrawal of U.S. troops. There should be a return to the spirit of the times.

"Prompted by the magnitude of the movement which rallies us today, we suggest that intellectuals from other countries conjugate their efforts for holding of an international meeting of intellectuals on Viet Nam.

"May intellectuals in the world raise their voices in unison and support the Vietnamese people's struggle for liberation, victoriously take up the challenge to the values of man's culture!"

Walking by my side, Du shook drops of rain, Du said, "You see, the ships entering the port today are bringing us goods. There is also the Soviet ship *Schershogorsk* bringing goods presented by the French people. I nodded assent, appreciating the woman worker's words. I told her that I remembered the names of the ships as well as the names of the people. In the fond memories of her young life.

GOODS CONSIGNMENTS FULL OF PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM

To take a look at the first consignments of goods presented to our people by the French communists and people under the "ship-for-Viet Nam" campaign and brought here by the ship *Schershogorsk*, was an honour and of a great interest.

During my trip to Hai Phong, the skipper Soviet ship *Lejeva*, told me about the moving evening on February 11, 1968 when the ship was about to leave. Tens of thousands of people were massing there for a send-off. The ship was representing the C.C. of the French C.P., Marseilles. The son of comrade Maurice Thorez, who was a member of the ship, was making a speech. The most impressive moment came when, while the ship was being loaded with goods, the port rushed in and insisted that the ship took its additional gifts ranging from bicycles, clothes, and household goods to medicines. One person added the bicycle he was riding to the cargo.

"No day without doing something to support Viet Nam," put forward by the French Communist Party

I went on board *Honggi* 152, the freighter which arrived in Viet Nam immediately after the U.S. communique "Tonkin Gulf Incident" of Aug. 5, 1964. Had the feeling of the Chinese people, who are as brothers of the same family. The skipper and the political commissar did not let me say "thanks" in the name of every Vietnamese citizen for the tremendous and effective support and assistance from the 700 million Chinese brothers. With modesty they said, "Like other peoples, the Chinese people are grateful to the Vietnamese people because you are fighting valiantly and stubbornly against Viet Nam imperialism. The common enemy of the whole of mankind. And to the U.S. crimes on a theatrical stage can by no means be compared with the actual crimes the aggressors had perpetrated at this port and

those seas had been able to see for themselves. A Japanese sailor had this to say after he had been to visit his family and have his belongings. "U.S. savagery and brutalities were everywhere. The people today are in no way different from those perpetrating against the Japanese people during the last years of World War II. The people of Viet Nam and Japan now have a common enemy—U.S. imperialism. We will support and assist each other in the struggle against our common enemy."

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY OF SOUTH VIET NAM'S COMPLETE LIBERATION

A Polish seaman, with great pleasure, showed me many attractive Viet Nam handbooks which he had just bought for his family at home. Asked to give his last impressions before saying good-bye to the ship *Schershogorsk*, he said, "Full confidence in the final victory of the Vietnamese people! Your victories this spring have strengthened our common interest."

SUPPORT VIET NAM—EVERY MAN'S DUTY

A Phong, I also met sailors from many countries. Tens of thousands of people were massing there for a send-off. The ship was representing the C.C. of the French C.P., Marseilles. The son of comrade Maurice Thorez, who was a member of the ship, was making a speech. The most impressive moment came when, while the ship was being loaded with goods, the port rushed in and insisted that the ship took its additional gifts ranging from bicycles, clothes, and household goods to medicines. One person added the bicycle he was riding to the cargo.

"No day without doing something to support Viet Nam," put forward by the French Communist Party

I went on board *Honggi* 152, the freighter which arrived in Viet Nam immediately after the U.S. communique "Tonkin Gulf Incident" of Aug. 5, 1964. Had the feeling of the Chinese people, who are as brothers of the same family. The skipper and the political commissar did not let me say "thanks" in the name of every Vietnamese citizen for the tremendous and effective support and assistance from the 700 million Chinese brothers. With modesty they said, "Like other peoples, the Chinese people are grateful to the Vietnamese people because you are fighting valiantly and stubbornly against Viet Nam imperialism. The common enemy of the whole of mankind. And to the U.S. crimes on a theatrical stage can by no means be compared with the actual crimes the aggressors had perpetrated at this port and

those seas had been able to see for themselves. A Japanese sailor had this to say after he had been to visit his family and have his belongings. "U.S. savagery and brutalities were everywhere. The people today are in no way different from those perpetrating against the Japanese people during the last years of World War II. The people of Viet Nam and Japan now have a common enemy—U.S. imperialism. We will support and assist each other in the struggle against our common enemy."

The sweat and blood of officers and sailors on board *Honggi* 152 had been shed on our territorial waters: in a voyage to Viet Nam on Jan. 31, 1968 they had 6 wounded in a valiant fight against U.S. aircraft.

Polish seamen will do everything they can to support you. We hope in the foreseeable future our ship will call at Saigon port of completely liberated South Viet Nam."

I had also read the diary, who lives in it. Worst still, they only play into his hand, for the glare they produce make them sitting ducks. It is not rare that a U.S. enemy ship provokes an alert and sets everyone afire. The bullets and shells are poured on everything while the enemy goes bravely into the sea. To parry the blows of the P.L.A.F. the aggressors set up at Nas Bu, a dozen kilometres below Saigon, a big river base having about a hundred war craft to launch in the day as well as at night "mopping-up" operations chiefly against *Rung Sat*. But life and the struggle go on in the region. The P.L.A.F. fighters make saltish water of the arroyos drinkable by distillation; the outposts give them plenty of fish and shrimps to eat and their small husking machines operate day and night to supply them with rice. Each has his work to do, but all will be ready at their fighting posts as soon as the enemy comes; and everyone can become a "volunteer fighter against the Yankees."

The main thing is however not to wait for the Yankees to come to hit them, but to take the initiative and launch attacks wherever the enemy is. And attacks are in fact frequent. In the night, the devoted assistance and these guerrillas will stiffen their resolve and step up their sacred struggle until final victory, which will be their positive contribution to the national liberation movement and the defence of world peace.

Battle on the Long Tau River

(Continued from page 8)

One day the infernal roar of aircraft was heard in the sky while from the Long Tau river came the siren blast of enemy ships. In a safe spot at *Rung Sat*, a stalwart young fighter drew a map from his pocket and pointed to the river and looked intently at it. An old guerrilla, a "white-haired fighter," as he was usually called, drew a gun, got at the map and pointing at it, he said to the youngster in a decided tone, "We guerrillas shall presently strike at the enemy in this spot, shall we? We shall strike, no matter what kind of ship and whatever their strength. The young A-1 gunners will take care of enemy planes."

They parted. Soon the crackling of firearms of various calibre was heard. And the observation post announced, "A high column of smoke from the river, the smoke followed by jets, but they do not dare come near. Seven choppers, three jets, they make wide circles in the sky. Our A-1 batteries go into action."

A few minutes later, the enemy vessels were hit and sent to the bottom, two others have turned flat. A copier has been downed in each his way away. But all will be ready at their fighting posts as soon as the enemy comes; and everyone can become a "volunteer fighter against the Yankees."

Thus the engagements on the Long Tau river at *Rung Sat* begin quickly and end quickly. And the results are enlightening. Over these last two years, a dozen ships—to mention only those from 5,000 to 11,000 tons—have gone to the bottom in Long Tau. And here, during the Winter 1966-Spring 1967 campaign, nearly one third of U.S. ships destroyed in South Viet Nam were sunk in that period.

THE Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.R., Alexei Kosygin, has declared at a reception given in his honour in Rawalpindi by Pakistani President Yusuf Khan that "The Soviet Government holds that the U.S. must accept the D.R.V.N. Government's proposals so that contacts might begin soon."

He stressed that total cessation of the bombing and other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. must be the first prerequisite, the minimum that people are demanding and that must be met.

NICOLAS CAUCESCU, Secretary-General of the C.C. of the Rumanian Communist Party, President of the Council of Ministers, Rumanian Socialist Republic has affirmed that Rumania acclaims and supports the recent statement of the D.R.V.N. government concerning contacts with the U.S. representative with a view to the permanent cessation of bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N.

SPEAKING at a meeting held on April 19, 1968 at the 15th anniversary of the Giron victory, Fidel Castro, First Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, Premier of the Cuban Revolutionary Government, has said that Johnson's March 31 speech on the "limited bombing" of North Viet Nam sprung from the bitter defeats inflicted by the American aggressors. He expressed "unqualified confidence in the policy, strategy and decisions of the Party, Government, Front and people of Viet Nam."

A statement on April 21 of the Royal Government of Cambodia says the lack of good-will on the part of the U.S. government which has given flimsy reasons to successively reject Phnom Penh and Warsaw appeals for preliminary contacts between the D.R.V.N. and the U.S.

On April 19, 1968, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has reiterated that the Government of North Korea fully support the sound position of the D.R.V.N. Government made clear in its April 3 statement and in the April 13 statement of the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry.

The Korean Government denounces the U.S. aggressors unconditionally and permanently stop all bombings and other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., completely and immediately pull their aggressive armed forces from the grounds of their satellites out of North Viet Nam.

According to reports from Paris, on April 19, 1968, the French Ministry spokesman, expressing his satisfaction at the April 3 statement of the D.R.V.N. government, said he hoped that Vietnamese attitude concerning preliminary contacts between the D.R.V.N. and the U.S.A. would open up the possibility for forthcoming talks and lead to the complete and unconditional halt of the bombing.

According to the paper *Asahi*, the Japanese Government, Secretary-General of the C.C. of the Japanese Communist Party, has demanded that the U.S. stop the bombing of the D.R.V.N. completely and called on the Japanese people to give a strong impulse to actions in support of the Vietnamese people. He has also stressed the U.S. lack of good-will.

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NGUYEN CAO KY AND WASHINGTON EXCHANGE NICETIES

was not all. Ever since he has had to helplessly witness the reports of reliable placemen he had put in office to report life struggles at seeing his star on the wane.

Dealing with the "free" elections that, it was thought, would lead to the fall of the South Viet Nam, a legal and representative government, the vice-president of the so-called Republic of Viet Nam admitted, "These elections cause us to lose much time and money. They aim at installing regime change to the masses, a useless and corrupt one. So Ky's view is a very far cry from Washington approach. Ky's boss, Lyndon B. Johnson, likes to resort again and again that the presence of U.S. troops in Viet Nam is from the need to live up to "solemn commitments" taken and renewed by three successive American presidents to help the Vietnamese people live free of aggression from a neighbouring country.

Once Ky was hugged by the U.S. President in Honolulu in March 1966, he was welcomed with due honours and praised as Saigon's "first political figure." Washington then heavily staked on the world stage the President's order in the garbage bin that the Saigon U.S. government was to increase its effectiveness.

But the honey moon was short-lived. Towards September 1967, Ky was forced out of the race to the Presidency of the Republic of Viet Nam, and to content himself instead with being Thieu's running mate. That

Every one knows that on the occasion of the dropping of a bomb on the city of Hanoi, the U.S. government has been accused of misappropriation of public funds, smuggling of narcotics and so on and so forth. A mass of evidence that the American secret services would not hesitate to use in a masterly manner for black mailing purposes.

In uncovering a secret withheld for over a lustrium, they are undoubtedly preparing a nasty trick at Ky's expense.

This exchange of niceties lay bare the conflicts which split the whole gang at a time when defeat loomed large in the distance. It speaks volumes of the moral standards of the Establishment.

— Sir, here I am, in full hit!

Cartoon by Pechalski (Sphili, Poland)

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

P.L.A.F. Keep Initiative and Attack the Enemy in All Theatres of Operation

KHE SANH Sector:
Nearly 1,000 G.I.'s Killed or Wounded in a Week
(April 17-23)

The Khe Sanh sector, the P.L.A.F. continue to inflict serious losses on the U.S. puppet troops.

On April 17, several enemy positions were attacked and throughout the day the P.L.A.F. killed or wounded more than 150 G.I.'s, destroyed or shot down 5 helicopters, and burnt a fuel dump. The U.S. Command had to evacuate 3 positions.

The next day, some 100 G.I.'s were killed or wounded in several battles. April 19 witnessed an ambush laid by the latter on Highway No. 9, east of Khe Sanh. The U.S. supply convoy lost 90 men killed or wounded.

A U.S. battalion (P.F.) was shelled at Bong Kho (8 km east of Ta Con) as well as Hue Thuong position (4 km southeast of Huong Hoa) where the enemy later had to send in 6 helicopters to remove the dead and wounded.

The shelling on April 20 cost the Americans some one hundred killed or wounded.

On April 21, 2 U.S. companies rushing to Khe Sanh were intercepted by the P.L.A.F.: 105 G.I.'s were killed or wounded.

The combats on April 21 and 22 to dislodge them from Hill 622, 3 km north of Lang Vay caused 300 dead or wounded among the G.I.'s.

At Lang Vay itself, 60 others G.I.'s were put out of action on April 22 and another 120 on April 23 when U.S. troops attempted to retake the village. Also on April 23, an ammo-dump and a fuel depot were blown up when the P.L.A.F. gunners pounded the U.S. position at Ca Lu, 15 km east of Ta Con.

Thus, between April 17 and 23, the enemy lost nearly 1,000 men.

Southwest of HUE:
41 Choppers Downed in 3 Straight Days, 34 of Them on April 19

"CAVALRYMEN" of the U.S. First Air Mobile Division recently launched an operation in the direction of the mountain region of Thien Thien province, southwest of Hue, in the provincial route No. 12 area.

The operation proved very costly for the Americans.

On April 19, a large number of helicopters landed G.I.'s at several points in this region. In the morning, in the very first wave, the P.L.A.F. brought down 9 choppers. At another point, another P.L.A.F. unit shot down 9 more. Throughout the day the successive attacks against this air fleet begged 16 more U.S. choppers, bringing a total of 34, a record number of copters

grounded in a single day in South Viet Nam. 300 "cavalrymen" were killed or wounded.

Next day, paratroops were dispatched to the rescue of "cavalrymen." They suffered 130 killed or wounded and 5 copters brought down. On April 21, the survivors were assaulted and about 100 of them put out of action.

On April 23, 150 G.I.'s were killed or wounded and 4 cannons destroyed west of Route No. 12.

Thus, between April 19 and 23, U.S. cavalrymen and paratroops listed more than 650 casualties, and 41 choppers knocked down in 3 days. The P.L.A.F. command has launched an emulation campaign among the P.L.A.F. to follow the example of the Thien Thien combatants in the hunt for flying ships.

SAIGON Area:
A Battalion and 2 Companies of the PuppetArmy Completely Wiped Out, 100 G.I.'s Killed or Wounded, 9 War Vessels and Combat Launches Sunk or Damaged between Saigon and the Sea.

In the Saigon area, sharp fighting took place in the neighbourhood of Tan Uyen, a dozen kilometres north of the big U.S. Bien Hoa base. On April 14, at Xom Chua (4 km southwest of Tan Uyen) a puppet battalion was completely wiped out, losing 500 men killed or wounded. Two days later, 2 puppet companies suffered the same fate 2 km northeast of Tan Uyen, and the casualty list included a puppet major and a U.S. captain. Next day, it was the turn of a puppet platoon and, in 3 other places, the guerrillas put 105 enemy troops out of action, and brought down 2 helicopters.

Some 50 km north of Saigon, on April 19, the P.L.A.F. intercepted a U.S. battalion at Ba Tuo and pounded the U.S. base at Phuoc Vinh. Four assaults of this U.S. battalion were repulsed and the Americans lost about 100 killed or wounded. At Phuoc Vinh, 5 helicopters and a fuel dump were set on fire and 20 Yankees put out of action.

Between Saigon and the sea, several successful attacks of the P.L.A.F. against U.S. ships and freighters were reported. On April 8, a U.S. troop transport was sunk with all men on board, 30 km southeast of Saigon on Long Tau river. Two days later a large U.S. landing craft suffered the same fate and another vessel of the same type was set ablaze on Dong Tranh river, 21 km southeast of Saigon. An enemy company was wiped out in the last attack.

Major combats took place on April 20 in 3 places situated

ed near Ben Luc southwest of Saigon. Three puppet battalions caught in ambushes left nearly 200 killed or wounded on the battlefield while 2 helicopters were grounded.

On April 18 and 19 again in a place close to Ben Luc, the guerrillas killed or wounded some 100 enemy including a captain and a second lieutenant of the puppet army, and shot down 4 helicopters, two of them grounded by a peasant with a carbine.

Lastly, the Thu Duc officers' training school, 12 km northeast of Saigon, was violently plattered on April 17. AFP reported that hundreds of shells landed into the premises of the school.

MEN TION should also be made of 3 major battles fought in the Mekong Delta by the P.L.A.F.

On April 16 in the southernmost part of the country, the Nam Can military sub-sector was overrun and the area occupied by the enemy for more than 10 years was liberated. The people's forces seized an important booty including 4 vessels and more than 100,000 rounds of ammunition.

On the same day, two puppet companies were put out of action 11 km southeast of Can Tho.

On April 29, in the Plain of Reeds, 70 km west of Saigon, a puppet Ranger company lost 80 men killed or wounded.

CONGRESS OF ALLIANCE OF FORCES FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY AND PEACE

THE Alliance of Forces for National Independence, Democracy and Peace held on April 20 and 21, 1968 its congress in a locality near Saigon—Cho Lon. Gia Phong Press Agency of Saigon—Gia Dinh sector reported.

The congress was attended by many personalities well known in South Viet Nam, intellectuals, professors, students, writers, journalists, industrialists, traders, employees of private enterprises, civil servants and army officers of the puppet regime.

They represented various strata and tendencies, political organizations, religious sects and parties now active in South Viet Nam's towns and cities.

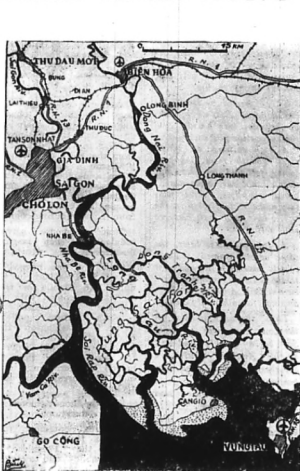
In the name of the Prepar-

atory Committee for the founding of the Alliance, Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao delivered the opening speech.

After spirited debates, the delegates unanimously passed the manifesto for national salvation and programme of action of the Alliance. They also unanimously elected the Alliance Central Committee with Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao as Chairman, and Mr. Lam Van Tet, an engineer and landowner, and Reverend Thich Don Hau, as vice-chairmen.

Messages and telegrams of congratulations from various sections of the people, in particular the message from the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, filled the audience with elation and enthusiasm.

Battle on the LONG TAU River



LONG TAU is unquestionably the most important waterway for the Americans in South Viet Nam. It links Saigon to the sea and through it come 80 per cent of the enemy's arm, ammunition and food supplies.

For the same reason Long Tau is also unquestionably the most dangerous waterway for the aggressors. For each ton of military goods shipped to Saigon, they have had to pay dear in money and blood.

Enemy convoys must often fire on both banks of Long Tau or at the waterways and canals which empty into it, in order to "keep in the lead" or "imaginary" Viet Cong, for many a time they have been attacked and at any time the People's Liberation Army Forces fighters can come from where nobody knows.

When a ship of an important (military) sails through Long Tau, it must always be escorted by minesweepers of the Seventh Fleet.

Navigating on the Long Tau river is all the more dangerous for the enemy chiefly because the virgin jungle of Rung Sat along its banks is crisscrossed with arrows which are an ideal base for the P.L.A.F. to attack American convoys. For their night traffic, the aggressors thus take it into their heads to

(Continued page 7)